

## PATENTS

Attorney Docket No. 7187-101-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

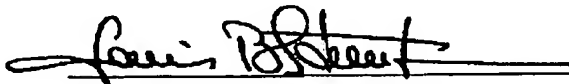
In re Application of: )  
DAVID SOUMEKH )  
Serial No. 10/099,925 ) Group Art No. 1761  
Filed: 15 March 2002 )  
For: MICRO-POROUS ENCLOSURE FOR DELIVERING )  
AND STIRRING INFUSIBLE AND WATER-SOLUBLE )  
POTABLE MATTER INTO A LIQUID ) Examiner: Robert A. Madsen

VERSION **WITH** MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN CLAIMS

(Per Response to Office Action dated 07 September 2004)

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What is Claimed is:

1           1.       (Once Amended) A sealed device for supplying the essences of infusible  
2       and water-soluble potable matter into a liquid comprising [an] a unitary, self-supporting  
3       generally stiff enclosure having openings which comprise micro-pores that form a  
4       screen in which the micro-pores are smaller than the nominal size of the matter when  
5       the matter comprises infusible matter, and thus are sized and have densities per unit  
6       area substantially to eliminate the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, thus, to  
7       encourage respective conveyance of the essences into the liquid.

1           2.       (Original) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which said enclosure  
2       comprises a tri-laminated material including a construction formed from layers of a  
3       polymer material sandwiched about an aluminum layer.

1           3.       (Cancelled) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the openings  
2       comprise micro-pores that form a screen in which the micro-pores are smaller than the  
3       nominal size of the matter when the matter comprises infusible matter.

1           4.       (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure  
2       comprises a woven membrane.

1           5.       (Original) A sealed device according to claim 4 in which said woven  
2       membrane comprises food-grade monofilament polymer.

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1           6.     (Original) A sealed device according to claim 5 in which said  
2     monofilament polymer comprises a polypropylene netting or gauze alternating with a  
3     stabilized yarn.

1           7.     (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure  
2     comprises a tri-laminated material including a construction formed from layers of a  
3     polymer material sandwiched about an aluminum layer.

1           8.     (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure  
2     is embodied as a tube.

1           9.     (Original) A sealed device according to claim 8 in which said tube is  
2     formed from a sheet of material lap-sealed upon itself.

1           10.    (Original) A sealed device according to claim 8 in which said tube is  
2     formed from a sheet of material fin-sealed upon itself.

1           11.    (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure  
2     is formed from an expandible container.

1           12.    (Original) A sealed device according to claim 11 in which said container  
2     has a pleated configuration to permit its expansion as the contained matter expands  
3     upon contact with the liquid without causing a squeezing pressure upon the matter.

1           13.    (Original) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which said enclosure  
2     has sufficient rigidity which provides a adequate structural integrity to permits its

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3 employment as a stirring rod for permitting the essence of the matter contained in the  
4 enclosure to be conveyed into the liquid.

1 14. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the matter  
2 contained in the enclosure is in crystalline, powder and granular form, and in  
3 combinations thereof.

1 15. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 14 in which the matter  
2 comprises a pre-measured medication in dry form which is dissolvable in a ready-to-  
3 use form.

1 16. (Withdrawn) A method for supplying the essences of infusible and  
2 water-soluble potable matter into a liquid comprising the steps of providing openings  
3 in an enclosure which are sized and have densities per unit area to substantially  
4 eliminate the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, therefore, to encourage  
5 respective infusion and dissolution of the essences into the liquid.

1 17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 further comprising the step  
2 of forming the openings as micro-pores to form a screen that are smaller than the  
3 nominal size of the matter when the matter comprises infusible matter.

1 18. (Once Amended) A sealed device for supplying the essences of infusible  
2 and water-soluble matter into a liquid comprising [an] a unitary, self-supporting  
3 generally stiff enclosure having openings which comprise micro-pores that form a  
4 screen in which the micro-pores are smaller than the nominal size of the matter when  
5 the matter comprises infusible matter, and thus are sized and have densities per unit

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6 area substantially to eliminate the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, thus, to  
7 encourage respective conveyance of the essences into the liquid

1 19. (Withdrawn) A method for supplying the essences of infusible and  
2 water-soluble matter into a liquid comprising the steps of providing openings in an  
3 enclosure which are sized and have densities per unit area to substantially eliminate  
4 the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, therefore, to encourage respective  
5 infusion and dissolution of the essences into the liquid.

1 20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 further comprising the step  
2 of forming the openings as micro-pores to form a screen that are smaller than the  
3 nominal size of the matter when the matter comprises infusible matter.

1 21. (New) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the infusible matter  
2 comprises tea.

1 22. (New) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the potable matter  
2 comprises matter in crystalline, powder or granule form.

1 23. (New) A sealed device according to claim 22 in which the potable matter  
2 comprises sugar and/or instant coffee.

1 24. (New) A sealed device according to claim 22 in which the potable matter  
2 comprises medications.

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1           25. (New) A sealed device according to claim 18 in which the infusible matter  
2   comprises tea.

1           26. (New) A sealed device according to claim 18 in which the potable matter  
2   comprises matter in crystalline, powder or granule form.

1           27. (New) A sealed device according to claim 26 in which the potable matter  
2   comprises sugar and/or instant coffee.

1           28. (New) A sealed device according to claim 26 in which the potable matter  
2   comprises medications.

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